

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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R 211325Z AUG 73
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3283
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

S E C R E T NAIROBI 5577

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, PINT, UG, TZ
SUBJECT: UGANDA COUP PLANS

REF: NAIROBI 5510

SUMMARY: PLANS FOR THE COUP ATTEMPT REPORTED IN REFTEL NOW
INCLUDE CONSIDERATION OF TANZANIAN/CHINESE OFFER OF SUPPORT AND
POSSIBLE AMERICAN PRIVATE ASSISTANCE. SUPPORT WITHIN UGANDA
REPORTEDLY GROWING AND LEADERS OF THE MOVEMENT IDENTIFIED AS
ALI MAZURI AND MAJOR OKOTH. END SUMMARY

1. RICHARD OJOK CONTACTED EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER AGAIN
AUGUST 21 WITH FOLLOWING PROGRESS REPORT ON COUP ATTEMPT
PLANNED FOR OCTOBER 5.

2. OJOK'S ORGANIZATION IS KNOWN AS QTE THE LIBERATORS UNQTE AND
THEY USE THE LETTER QTE K UNQTE AS THEIR IDENTIFICATION SIGNAL.
ACCORDING TO OJOK THE LEADERS ARE MAJOR OKOTH WHO IS AN ACTIVE
UGANDAN MILITARY OFFICER AND FORMER MAKERERE PROFESSOR ALI MAZRUI
WHO IS PRESENTLY IN THE UNITED STATES.

3. OJOK REPORTS THAT MAJOR OKOTH MET WITH PRESIDENT NYERERE
SECRETLY LAST WEEK TO REQUEST TANZANIAN ASSISTANCE. THE CHINESE
MILITARY ATTACHE IN DAR, CHO EN TIENG (PHONETIC) ATTENDED THE
MEETING. NYERERE AND CHO REPORTEDLY OFFERED OKOTH FINANCIAL ASSIST-
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ANCE AND TROOPS. THE CATCH IS THAT THE TROOPS OFFERED WERE CHINESE.

WHILE MAJOR OKOTH IS IN FAVOR OF ACCEPTING THE OFFER, OJOK IS NOT BECAUSE OF THE OBVIOUS PROBLEM OF GETTING RID OF THE CHINESE IF THE PLOT IS SUCCESSFUL. NYERERE ALLEGEDLY OFFERED OKOTH A PLANE-LOAD OF TROOPS WHO WOULD BE EMBARKED FROM TANZANIA ON AN EAST AFRICAN AIRLINES PLANE IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES ON OCTOBER 5.

4. OJOK CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN IN THE US IN JULY WITH ALI MAZRI ATTEMPTING TO SOLICIT US ASSISTANCE. HE REPORTS THAT HE AND ALI MET WITH JULIAN HILBERT (PHONETIC) WHO IS A BLACK AMERICAN ARMS DEALER FROM NEW YORK. HILBERT'S ASSISTANCE WILL DEPEND UPON THE LIBERATOR'S ABILITY TO RAISE FUNDS.

5. OJOK REPORTS THAT SINCE LAST SEEING THE EMBASSY OFFICER HE HAS BEEN IN UGANDA AND THE MOVEMENT NOW HAS SUPPORT OF OVER 200 WELL-PLACED MILITARY MEN FROM ALL UNITS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MUSA ALI'S REGIMENT AT JINJA.

6. THE MOVEMENT HAS ADDED ONE MORE PRIME TARGET TO ITS ASSASSINATION LIST, THIS BEING LT. COLONEL MALIYAMUNGU, COMMANDER OF THE SIMBA MECHANIZED REGIMENT AT MBARARA.

7. OJOK REPORTS THERE ARE NOW 400 LIBYAN TROOPS IN AND AROUND KAMPALA AND THAT 21 MIRAGE JET FIGHTERS ARE SCHEDULED TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM LIBYA IN NOVEMBER.

8. THE LIBERATORS FEEL THAT THE FINAL PREPARATORY STEP IN THEIR PLANNING IS TO ASSURE THEMSELVES OF SOME TANK SUPPORT SINCE LT. COL. MALIYAMUNGU AND THE LIBYANS HAVE CONTROL OF THE TANK FORCES. THE LIBERATORS ARE TRYING TO PROCURE TANKS OUTSIDE OF UGANDA. FOR THIS THEY NEED FUNDS AND ARE PREPARING TO CONTACT FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER KIBEDI FOR SOME ASSISTANCE. IN RETURN THEY WILL OFFER KIBEDI A POSITION IN THEIR GOVERNMENT. HIS SUPPORT, HOWEVER, WILL PROBABLY DEPEND ON WHETHER HIS SISTER WHO IS MARRIED TO AMIN, SURVIVES THE FIRE-WORKS ON OCTOBER 5.

9. OJOK SAYS THAT ON HIS RECENT VISIT TO UGANDA HE LEARNED AUTHORITATIVELY THAT AMIN WILL ATTEND THE ALGIERS NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. THE COUP HOWEVER WILL NOT BE STAGED IN AMIN'S ABSENCE AS HE PERSONALLY IS A PRIME TARGET.

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10. OJOK RETURNS TO KAMPALA AUGUST 22 WHERE HE WILL REMAIN INDEFINITELY AT THE STANDARD HOTEL.

11. COMMENT: WHILE OJOK'S LATEST REVELATIONS MAKE EMBASSY QUESTION SERIOUSNESS OF ALLEGED COUP PLANS, DETAILS ARE BEING FORWARDED IN EVENT THEY MAY ADD TO INFO THIS SUBJECT ALREADY AVAILABLE WASHINGTON AGENCIES. LINDSTROM

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